

REMARKS

Applicants have reduced the number of claims and have amended Claims 1, 4 and 7 to clarify the present invention.

As now amended, Claim 1 is to a connector housing that has a bottom wall, ceiling wall, pair of side walls and a plurality of partition walls which form a plurality of terminal-receiving chambers for receiving a metal terminal, and a mark is provided on an outer surface of the wall of the connector housing corresponding to each terminal-receiving chamber, on a surface of the wall flush with an opening of the terminal-receiving chamber so as to indicate a specified metal terminal to be received by the corresponding terminal-receiving chamber. Also, each terminal receiving chamber has an inner surface, and a mark is provided on an end of the inner surface near the opening of the inner surface of the terminal-receiving chamber. Claims 4 and 7 are to a method of marking to produce such a housing and a method of inserting metal terminals using such a housing. Such claims are not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3 and 7 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by JP-455770; Claims 2, 8 and 9 were rejected as obvious in view of a combination of JP-455770 and Endo et al., and Claims 4 - 6 were rejected as obvious in view of JP- 455770. Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to Claims 1, 4 and 7 and the following remarks.

The Office Action states, with respect to original Claims 1, 3 and 7 that JP-455770 shows a connector housing with a plurality of terminal-receiving chambers (2) for receiving a metal terminal (7), where a mark (15) is provided on an outer surface of the connector housing for each chamber that indicates a specified terminal to be received by the chamber. It is also alleged that the

mark is provided on an end “near” the opening of an inner surface of the chamber.

As JP-455770 is understood, the mark (15) is provided on a top wall (13) of a housing and spaced from the end face of the housing into which terminals are inserted. In the present amended claims, the mark is placed on the end face of the housing (a surface of the wall flush with an opening) and on an end of the inner surface near the opening of the inner surface. (See p. 32, lines 10-14 of the present specification). Such a connector housing and method are not taught or suggested in JP-455770.

In combining Endo et al. with JP-455770 to reject original Claims 2, 8 and 9, the Office Action admits that JP-455770 does not show a mark on a surface of one of the partition walls surrounding the opening of the chamber, the surface being flush with the opening. Endo is cited, however, to show a mark (13) provided on an outer surface of a housing, the surface being flush with the opening. In Endo, however, the marks are not provided on a surface of a bottom wall, top wall, pair of side walls and plurality of partition walls that form terminal-receiving chambers and on an end of the inner surface near the opening of the inner surface, but are provided on a separate flange (11) as shown in Fig. 1 or are marks (49) provided on a pair of stopper bodies (47a) and (47b) that are hinged to the frame body (43) through integral hinge portions (45), as described in Col. 4 of Endo et al. The marks are not on an end face of the walls forming the terminal-receiving chambers and on an inner surface of a wall of the terminal-receiving chamber as required in the present invention.

None of the cited references or their combination suggests the present connector housing where a mark is provided on the outer surface of a housing wall flush with an opening and also on an inner surface of the terminal receiving chamber.

In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, claims 1, 4, and 7 are believed to be patentable and early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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